

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL OF CLARK COUNTY

JANUARY 9, 2006 MEETING

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Doug Ballou.

Those in attendance were: Dick Durland, Sherwood Hills; Sue Lintz, East Minnehaha; George and Jeanne White, Sunnyside; Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point; James J Fuerstenberg, Ogden; Evar L. Knudtson, Ogden, Don Wastler, citizen; Ron Price, Pleasant Highlands; Doug Ballou, NACCC Chairman; Charlie Lewis, Minnehaha East, Ila Stanek, West Hazel Dell; Dick Spring, CCFD #6; Betty Sue Morris, Clark County Commissioner, Jeanette Steinhaus, Heritage; Steve Douglass, Heritage, Alex Maynes, Pleasant Highlands, Bridget Schwarz, Friends of Clark County; Les Sarasohn, Pleasant Highlands; Ernal Sarasohn, Pleasant Highlands, Lucienne Coleman, Pleasant Highlands; Everett Cook, West Hazel Dell; Betsy Williams, City of Vancouver; Robyn Kim, Greater Brush Prairie; Alex Veliko, Fairway/164 Vancouver; Jim Etzkarn, Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance; Ross Montgomery, Airport Green; Jeff Mize, The Columbian; Irene and Yaro Schnoebelens, Pleasant Highlands; Bill Moyer, Pleasant Highlands; David Taylor, Fire District 6; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds; Milada Allen, Felida

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Ballou announced that Lianne Forney was retiring and Mary Keltz was taking over Lianne's responsibilities, with Holly Gaya reporting to Mary.

GMA UPDATE – Bill Moyer, Pleasant Highlands

In a power point presentation, Bill Moyer reviewed the GMA update process to familiarize the members with the current status.

He displayed the three alternative maps that were under consideration by the commissioners: Alt. 1: no action; Alt.2: Discussion Map; and Alt. 3 Geographic Flexibility map.

Neighborhood leaders are concerned, he said, about the broad zoning categories with no constraints relative to neighboring land uses. Once zoning is set, any legally permitted businesses may go in.

The three major urban growth activities on the horizon are:

1. Annexation of a large parcel of the county which will impact many neighborhood associations. Public meetings will be held on Jan. 12, 19, 24, 26 and 30. The Boundary Review Board will hold hearings on February 22 and 23 prior to their annexation decision.
2. Lakeside Final EIS for Asphalt Plant in Brush Prairie. The EIS was released for public view on Jan. 6, 2006. Staff Report due out in 8-10 weeks. Appeals must be filed within 14 days of staff report's publication. Bill passed out CDs on mitigation measures Lakeside proposes as well as wider county impacts of the plant.
3. Cowlitz/Mohegan Casino – Still under review by BIA. EIS has been released to cooperating agencies but not to public yet. Public may get as much as 60 days to

respond. Congressman Brian Baird has asked for a public meeting involving all federal agencies dealing with Cowlitz proposal. Process has not been transparent and there has been much conflicting information coming out of local BIA office.

ANNEXATION

Betsy Williams, Assistant City Manager, gave a power point presentation on the annexation plans for the City of Vancouver. She brought three city neighborhood association leaders to talk about their positive experiences after having been annexed into the city.

Susan Wallace, Annexation Manager, also weighed in on the finer points of annexation and the city's plans. The city broke out its UGB into subareas in 1997 and the plan was to chronologically bring each in.

The city's policy, she explained, was to annex their UGA, focusing on areas that already have services. The city's original intention was to bring in the Burnt Bridge area and they applied to the Boundary Review Board (BRB) for inclusion. It was then decided to consider requesting the BRB to approve annexing a larger portion of their UGA, which would include all of Fire District 5.

There then ensued a lively discussion on the short notice that was given on the city's intention to include the larger area. The city claims that they have the density/police ratio much higher than what the county can provide and public safety is the number one priority of local governments. The city is not using the petition method.

Susan Gilbert said that the most often question asked of her was "what is the comparison of the cost to me now as a county citizen and the cost to me if annexation takes place". She believes that there should be a way to have county costs in one column, and city costs on an adjacent column with the bottom line being the answer. Susan Wallace said that the city is working on an "annexation calculator" that should provide all that information.

George Vartanian claimed that some services were not delivered to previously annexed areas that were promised and how will that be different this time?

The most pressing question by everyone in the room was "how will we benefit from annexation?"

One of the city's neighborhood association leaders stated that the city was instrumental in working with the neighborhood association in traffic-calming the E Mill Plain area by spending \$ on neighborhoods to keep traffic out rather than on the artery itself. He said that the neighborhoods make the decisions on how and what resources are used and that \$3.5 million was spent on projects designed by neighborhood associations which developed into a trusting relationship between associations and the city.

Commissioner Morris was then asked about her position on the annexation. She stated that the county is not opposed to annexation but does not support such a vast annexation proposal at this time. The Commissioners have asked twice for a meeting with City Commissioners and been rebuffed. They have asked the City for a plan of action. She reiterated that the county does not oppose annexation but does of this huge annexation which is being done 1) without county involvement and 2) without public participation. The county position is to have the city draw back, stand down but have the Burnt Bridge annexation proceed. The

county will then go forward with the city and service providers and public in an extensive process for a sequential annexation plan.

Commissioner Morris said that the GMA mentions “annexation” only 3 times: 1) in conjunction with industrial land banks; 2) in conjunction with strategies commission (which has been defunct for 7 years) and 3) in reference to what the city may include in its UGB.

Bridget Schwarz stated that there were only 22 days between public meetings and the decision by the Boundary Review Board and that the time line was unacceptable. Betsy Williams stated that the city has asked for an extension but no promises. Bridget also wanted the city to make clear to the citizens of the proposed annexation area that they do not have a vote. The developers of the subdivisions asked the city to provide services to their developments in exchange for their not fighting annexation when the time came. Bridget said that this has not been made clear to the citizens.

Alex Maynes stated that the citizens and neighborhood leaders need to get out in numbers to the upcoming public community information fairs to pin the city down on specifics of water, sewer, taxes, policing, etc. The city needs to be forthcoming about real costs to the proposed annexation area citizens.

Doug Ballou stated that an orderly transition is needed for neighborhoods and that they should meet with both county and city to air problems. More outreach is needed by the city and they need to go out and educate the neighborhood associations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilbert, Secretary

Reviewed and approved by Doug Ballou, 1/17/06